



EPHESIANS 3:7-13
The Joy of of Sharing Christ
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
March 26, 2023

Sermon Summary

The beautiful revelation of the Mystery of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its availability and application to everyone, is both precious and amazing. You have received the opportunity of salvation through Jesus Christ and this privilege is offered to everyone without charge! What next? Well, next is the clear and consistent proclamation of this Mystery to the Nations. Jesus gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) which includes the admonition to “Go and Tell!” When we were young we participated in “show and tell” but now that we have grown up both in life and faith, it is time for regular participation in “Go and Tell!” We are to go make disciples teaching them all the things we have been taught! Proclamation is witnessing, teaching and preaching. It is not just one thing!!! All witnesses are to proclaim the truth to the world so that many will be saved!

Scripture Overview: Paul reminds the readers, including all of us today, that it is only by God’s grace and mighty power that he has life and the privilege of spreading the revealed mystery of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles! With this great responsibility comes an appropriate measure of humility. The mystery has now been revealed and must be proclaimed (“told” in verse 8, also “preach,” “explain” in verse 9). Access to come boldly into God’s presence has now been granted to all men who believe in Jesus. It is only with Jesus that we have confidence to come into the presence of God. Suffering for the proclamation of the mystery is a privilege and all should feel honored!

Ephesians 3:7-13

[7] Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. [8] To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, [9] and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, [10] so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. [11] This was

according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, [12] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. [13] So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. **English Standard Version**

Diving Into The Message

The Joy of of Sharing Christ

I. Jesus is the Greatest; Paul is the Least

7 By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. 8 Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. Ephesians 3:7-8 (NLT)

He must become greater and greater and I must become less and less. John 3:30 (NLT)

II. The Mystery is Revealed; The Church is the Conduit

9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. 10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:9-11 (NLT)

Conduit - a person or organization that acts as a channel for the transmission of something.

III. Boldness and Access; Available In Christ Jesus Our Lord

12 Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

IV. Do Not Lose Heart; Keep Your Joy

13 So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored. Ephesians 3:13

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Questions from the Scripture

1. Are you encouraged in the ways you serve God by this description of Paul? How?
2. Who are the ministers of the mystery of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Not everyone has the same assignment but everyone should be ready to share the reason for the hope that they have in Jesus (1 Peter 3:15-16). Are you ready?
3. What is the role of the Church in the proclamation of the mystery?
4. Is it important for every believer to have a church home? Why?
5. Why would God want His wisdom made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms (vv. 10-11)?

Life Application Questions

1. How do you see God's grace in your daily life and service to Him?
2. What is your attitude toward the church, and how might you need to change your attitude? Your responsibility? How can you cultivate an attitude of Joy? Why should you?
3. What impact does the revealed mystery of the Good News of Jesus Christ have on your life? Worship? Prayer? Witnessing? Joy?
4. Christians around the world are suffering because of their proclamation of the Good News. Take time to pray for them right now? It is estimated by some that more believers died for their faith and because of their faith in the 20th Century than all other deaths since Jesus' resurrection combined. Pray for those who face persecution and death for their faith and ask the Lord to prepare you to face the same!
5. Many of the Questions From the Scripture and Life Application were gleaned from Reading Ephesians with John Stott and Andrew T. Le Peau.